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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS

JUNE, 1947.

1. GENERAL.

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, (Dr. Roland Wilson) covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act 1944 (from 1st July, 1947, Part VII of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947) for the month of June, 1947, and the year 1946-47.

Operations for the year ended June, 1947 will be reviewed in greater detail in a later bulletin which will be released within the next month.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. It also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old-Age Pensions Act, (from 1st July, 1947 the Age and Invalid section of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947). The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see Section 8 - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Sections 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exits notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during the period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. BENEFITS PAID

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during June, 1947, and the year 1946-47, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING JUNE, 1947, AND THE YEAR 1946-47 : STATES.

	Benefits paid during June, 1947.				Benefits paid during year 1946-47			
	Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
N.S.W. (a)	£. 12,244	£. 27,981	£. 934	£. 41,159	£. 172,141	£. 277,932	£. 6,772	£. 456,845
Victoria	4,430	15,780	562	20,772	159,061	181,684	6,839	347,584
Queensland	25,992	7,547	475	34,014	441,048	100,531	7,826	549,405
S.Aust. (b)	942	7,337	272	8,551	20,064	74,471	1,769	96,304
W. Australia	5,163	4,046	320	9,529	110,700	58,150	2,918	171,768
Tasmania	366	2,437	102	2,905	7,808	33,246	1,815	42,869
TOTAL:	49,137	65,128	2,665	116,930	910,822	726,014	27,939	1,664,775

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

3. SUMMARY - CLAIMS ADMITTED, EXITS, PERSONS ON BENEFIT

The following table shows for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47, and for the months July, 1946 to June, 1947, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and persons remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT -
YEARS 1945-46 AND 1946-47 AND MONTHS FROM JULY, 1946 TO JUNE, 1947.

AUSTRALIA

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
CLAIMS ADMITTED									
Year 1945-46	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
" 1946-47(a)	73,379	5,199	45,024	11,004	1,271	335	119,674	16,538	136,212
1946 -									
July	9,071	2,494	3,334	666	57	17	12,462	3,177	15,639
August	3,875	164	4,199	917	56	31	8,130	1,112	9,242
September	2,791	109	3,385	759	27	22	6,203	890	7,093
October	3,102	97	3,546	877	81	27	6,729	1,001	7,730
November	16,132	1,001	4,348	1,065	201	31	20,681	2,097	22,778
December	9,608	324	2,905	707	197	38	12,710	1,069	13,779
1947 -									
January	6,649	170	3,018	656	108	20	9,775	846	10,621
February	5,903	165	3,412	909	116	24	9,431	1,098	10,529
March	5,072	196	4,661	1,293	119	37	9,852	1,526	11,378
April	4,275	145	3,308	802	82	21	7,665	968	8,633
May (a)	4,231	217	5,056	1,345	157	46	9,444	1,608	11,052
June (a)	2,670	117	3,852	1,008	70	21	6,592	1,146	7,738
DISCONTINUANCES									
Year 1945-46	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
" 1946-47(a)	73,974	5,269	43,388	10,077	1,136	210	118,498	15,556	134,054
1946 -									
July	9,188	2,494	2,996	547	40	8	12,224	3,049	15,273
August	4,125	195	3,868	786	42	16	8,035	997	9,032
September	2,983	145	3,293	655	24	8	6,300	808	7,108
October	3,106	107	3,424	777	47	27	6,577	911	7,488
November	9,833	874	4,333	983	75	18	14,241	1,875	16,116
December	5,084	176	2,744	735	78	19	7,906	930	8,836
1947 -									
January	11,151	367	3,112	672	194	13	14,457	1,052	15,509
February	6,367	146	3,336	756	114	18	9,817	920	10,737
March	7,197	215	4,318	1,087	190	34	11,705	1,336	13,041
April	5,192	157	3,365	894	99	12	8,656	1,063	9,719
May (a)	5,945	242	4,803	1,220	157	22	10,905	1,484	12,389
June (a)	3,803	151	3,796	965	76	15	7,675	1,131	8,806
PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH									
1946 -									
June	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July	6,459	297	5,966	1,411	73	149	12,498	1,857	14,355
August	6,209	266	6,297	1,542	87	164	12,593	1,972	14,565
September	6,017	230	6,389	1,646	90	178	12,496	2,054	14,550
October	6,013	220	6,511	1,746	124	178	12,648	2,144	14,792
November	12,312	347	6,526	1,828	250	191	19,088	2,366	21,454
December	16,836	495	6,687	1,800	369	210	23,892	2,505	26,397
1947 -									
January	12,334	298	6,593	1,784	283	217	19,210	2,299	21,509
February	11,870	317	6,669	1,937	285	223	18,824	2,477	21,301
March	9,745	298	7,012	2,143	214	226	16,971	2,667	19,638
April	8,828	286	6,955	2,051	197	235	15,980	2,572	18,552
May (a)	7,114	261	7,208	2,176	197	259	14,519	2,696	17,215
June (a)	5,981	227	7,264	2,219	191	265	13,436	2,711	16,147

(a) Subject to revision.

Note : For monthly figures from July, 1945 to June, 1946, see October, 1946, Bulletin

4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED

(i) Duration : The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the year 1946-47, is shown in the following table :-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING 1946-47 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks</u>									
Less than 1	13,532	1,492	4,060	673	89	-	17,681	2,165	19,846
1 and under 2	15,524	2,219	6,782	1,263	124	11	22,430	3,493	25,923
2 " " 3	7,506	260	5,757	1,168	139	17	13,402	1,445	14,847
3 " " 4	5,529	199	5,007	1,131	98	14	10,634	1,344	11,978
4 " " 5	4,438	169	3,815	905	124	16	8,377	1,090	9,467
5 " " 9	14,468	526	8,739	2,150	305	40	23,512	2,716	26,228
9 " " 13	6,385	210	3,871	1,144	155	30	10,411	1,384	11,795
3 " " 26	7,717	333	4,477	1,380	158	46	12,352	1,759	14,111
6 and over	2,583	79	2,583	599	25	49	5,191	727	5,918
TOTAL:	77,682	5,487	45,091	10,413	1,217	223	123,990	16,123	140,113

Of the 140,113 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the year ended June, 1946-47, 58,052 (41 per cent) were in receipt of benefits for five weeks and over, 67,519 (48 per cent) for four weeks and over, 79,497 (57 per cent) for three weeks and over, 94,344 (67 per cent) for two weeks and over, 120,267 (86 per cent) for one week, whilst 19,846 (14 per cent) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Eighteen per cent of unemployment and nine per cent of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for duration of less than three weeks the percentages were 49 and 35 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation : The reasons for terminating the 138,673 cases of unemployment and sickness benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the year 1946-47, are shown below:-

REASON FOR CESSION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING YEAR 1946-47 - AUSTRALIA.

Reason for Cessation	Unemployment		Sickness		Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
Employment secured or resumed	42,043	3,628	23,435	4,897	65,478	8,525	74,003
Incapacity terminated ..	-	-	13,052	3,725	13,052	3,725	16,777
Failure to report ..	29,250	1,460	1,608	658	30,858	2,118	32,976
Transfer to another benefit covered by the Act ..	1,257	138	1,105	126	2,362	264	2,626
Statutory age limit reached (b) ..	243	4	121	13	364	17	381
Permanent incapacity (c) ..	328	17	2,155	409	2,483	426	2,909
Compensation and other similar payments ..	42	2	454	26	496	28	524
Transfer to other pensions not covered by the Act ..	149	12	301	57	450	69	519
Death ..	39	-	899	52	938	52	990
Transfer to another State or district ..	1,324	55	643	293	1,967	348	2,315
Failure or refusal to accept an offer of employment ..	2,088	108	-	-	2,088	108	2,196
Other ..	919	63	1,318	157	2,237	220	2,457
TOTAL:	77,682	5,487	45,091	10,413	122,773	15,900	138,673

(a) Excludes Special Benefits 130 males, 20 females, 150 persons. (b) Includes transfer to Old Age Pension. (c) Includes transfer to Invalid Pension.

5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JUNE, 1947.

Total Persons

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment : The proportion of persons on benefit at 28th June, 1947, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 64 per 10,000 comprising 24 unemployment, 38 sickness and 2 special cases per 10,000.

The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28th JUNE, 1947.
PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA.

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment.			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males	per 10,000 males	32	40	1	73
Females	per 10,000 females	3	33	4	40
Persons	per 10,000 persons	24	38	2	64

(ii) State Totals : The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 28th June, 1947:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28TH JUNE, 1947 : STATES.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W. (a) ..	1,350	50	2,797	825	54	68	4,201	943	5,144
Vic. ..	641	26	1,819	649	41	59	2,501	734	3,235
Qld. ..	3,102	129	1,003	259	41	52	4,146	440	4,586
S.A. (b) ..	100	5	744	195	18	24	862	224	1,086
W.A. ..	744	17	578	206	31	36	1,353	259	1,612
Tas. ..	44	-	323	85	6	26	373	111	484
TOTAL:	5,981	227	7,264	2,219	191	265	13,436	2,711	16,147

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

iii) Age : Distribution of persons on benefit at 28th June, 1947, according to age groups is shown in the following table :-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28TH JUNE, 1947 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec. 1946)	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	259	60	540	567	1	17	800	644	1,444
20 - 24 "	525	55	691	491	4	23	1,220	569	1,789
25 - 29 "	511	30	527	227	5	20	1,043	277	1,320
30 - 34 "	520	18	602	187	7	31	1,129	236	1,365
35 - 39 "	514	12	663	149	4	33	1,181	194	1,375
40 - 44 "	597	13	677	182	-	45	1,274	240	1,514
45 - 49 "	644	13	788	197	5	38	1,437	248	1,685
50 - 54 "	702	14	876	129	3	39	1,581	182	1,763
55 - 59 "	865	12	1,091	88	5	14	1,961	114	2,075
60 - 64 "	844	-	809	2	49	4	1,702	6	1,708
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	108	1	108	1	109
Total:	5,981	227	7,264	2,219	191	265	13,436	2,711	16,147

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF YEAR 1946-47.

(i) Cause of Unemployment : The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the year 1946-47, and by those who were on benefit at 28th June, 1947.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit. Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING THE YEAR 1946-47 ENDED JUNE - AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during year 1946-47			On benefit at 28th June, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons ..	778	14	792	79	1	80
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	2,358	94	2,452	395	13	408
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	7,098	293	7,391	861	30	891
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only ..	2,437	196	2,633	363	14	377
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	490	28	518	71	4	75
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	8,429	3,041	11,470	16	3	19
Shortage of Materials ..	3,706	91	3,797	275	7	282
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	16,492	424	16,916	170	7	177
Seasonal work ..	9,519	200	9,719	900	12	912
Casual work ..	9,097	128	9,225	1,009	19	1,028
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	1,563	42	1,605	84	1	85
Inadequately defined ..	8	-	8	120	1	121
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy ..	5,351	348	5,699	825	53	878
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	3,709	252	3,961	380	41	421
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account ..	1,347	11	1,358	231	2	233
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	2,764	55	2,819	191	4	195
Other ..	66	59	125	11	15	26
TOTAL:	75,212	5,276	80,488	5,981	227	6,208

ii) Industrial Groups : In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was certified during the year 1946-47, and of those on benefit at 28th June, 1947:-

UNEMPLOYMENT - INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING
YEAR 1946-47 : AUSTRALIA.

Industry in which last engaged	Claims admitted during year 1946-47 ended June.			On benefit at 18th June, 1947		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	8,484	16	8,500	956	2	958
Other Primary Production ..	1,048	-	1,048	107	-	107
Coal Mining ..	1,402	-	1,402	43	-	43
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	892	-	892	85	-	85
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metalworking including shipbuilding ..	16,146	381	16,527	482	3	485
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	3,291	31	3,322	126	1	127
Textiles and articles of dress ..	1,370	2,227	3,597	81	22	103
Food, drink and tobacco ..	8,741	554	9,295	649	20	669
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	2,226	54	2,280	118	-	118
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	4,002	295	4,297	277	6	283
Building and Construction ..	6,660	3	6,663	740	-	740
Transport and Communication ..	6,824	138	6,962	501	11	512
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	5,033	419	5,452	608	48	656
Finance and property ..	282	14	296	44	1	45
Public Administration and Professional ..	3,096	201	3,297	498	25	523
Personal and Domestic Service ..	3,053	836	3,889	456	71	527
Other ..	2,662	107	2,769	210	17	227
TOTAL:	75,212	5,276	80,488	5,981	227	6,208

Distribution by States of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 28th June, 1947, in the principal industrial groups is shown in the following table:-

UNEMPLOYMENT : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - MALES ON BENEFIT AT 28TH JUNE, 1947 : STATES.

Industry in which last engaged	N.S.W. (a)	VIC.	Q'LAND	S.A. (b)	W.A.	TAS.	AUST.
Agriculture, Pastoral, etc. ..	261	56	579	9	47	4	956
Other Primary including Mining ..	81	26	88	2	36	2	235
Engineering, etc. including Vehicles ..	174	158	179	20	76	1	608
Food, Drink, etc. Factories ..	80	62	450	5	45	7	649
Other Factories ..	123	86	175	10	79	3	476
Building and Construction ..	153	61	438	12	75	1	740
Transport ..	86	77	257	9	63	9	501
Commerce and Finance ..	149	55	304	19	118	7	652
Public Administration and Professional ..	93	19	313	6	63	4	498
Personal and Domestic Service ..	121	35	180	7	111	2	456
Other ..	29	6	139	1	31	4	210
TOTAL:	1,350	641	3,102	100	744	44	5,981

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

iii) Metropolitan and Other : Admissions to unemployment benefit notified during the year 1946-47, and persons on benefit at 28th June, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" Districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table :-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during year 1946-47.				On Benefit at 28th June, 1947.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
New South Wales (b)	4,546	51	7,92	834	363	5	987	45
Victoria	12,819	484	2,110	60	339	19	302	7
Queensland	12,223	2,017	21,810	1,373	1,321	37	1,781	92
South Australia (c)	998	5	420	8	88	3	12	2
Western Australia	9,189	799	2,272	91	656	10	88	7
Tasmania	301	2	103	2	34	-	10	-
TOTAL:	40,076	3,358	35,136	1,918	2,801	74	3,180	153

a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Services Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in "Metropolitan".

b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF YEAR

i) Metropolitan and Other : Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the year ended June, 1946-47, and those current at 28th June, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table :-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claim admitted during year 1946-47				On Benefit at 28th June, 1947			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
New South Wales (b)	8,285	2,572	7,670	1,180	1,478	568	1,319	257
Victoria	7,214	2,446	4,012	878	1,191	495	628	154
Queensland	3,329	878	3,881	637	524	146	479	113
South Australia (c)	3,424	720	1,783	276	498	147	246	48
Western Australia	2,741	895	1,822	358	361	151	217	55
Tasmania	784	180	1,283	235	126	33	197	52
TOTAL:	25,777	7,691	20,451	3,564	4,178	1,540	3,086	679

(a) See footnote to table 6 (iii). (b) Includes A.C.T. (c) Includes N.T.

ii) Industrial Groups : The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 28th June, 1947, is shown in the following table :-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 28TH JUNE, 1947 : AUSTRALIA

Industry in which last engaged		Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	..	617	18	635
Other Primary Production	..	139	1	140
Coal Mining	..	287	-	287
Other Mining and Quarrying	..	138	1	139
Factories and Industrial -				
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding	1,022	73	1,095	
Vehicles, including aircraft	321	16	337	
Textiles and articles of dress	291	430	721	
Food, drink and tobacco	511	126	637	
Furniture, woodwork, etc.	275	19	294	
Other Factories, including heat, light and power	728	126	854	
Building and Construction	906	1	907	
Transport and Communication	707	53	760	
Commerce and Finance -				
Wholesale and retail trade	632	357	989	
Finance and property	38	33	71	
Public Administration and Professional	254	386	640	
Personal and Domestic Service	359	573	932	
Other	39	6	45	
TOTAL:	7,264	2,219	9,483	

iii) Nature of Sickness : The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificate of persons whose admission was notified during the year 1946-47, and of those of benefit at 28th June, 1947.

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING YEAR 1946-47,
ENDED JUNE, 1947 : AUSTRALIA

8. TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFIT AND CLAIMS REJECTED.

The total number of applicants for benefit whose claims were notified during the year 1946-47, and those whose claims were notified as rejected during the same period are shown in the table below. No further dissection of rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information at a later date.

TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFIT AND CLAIMS REJECTED - YEAR 1946-47 - STATES.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		Percentage Rejects to Total
	Total Claims	Rejects	Total Claims	Rejects	Total Claims	Rejects	Total Claims	Rejects	
S.W. (a) ..	19,262	6,389	22,501	2,794	558	126	42,321	9,309	22.0
Victoria ..	22,147	5,875	17,352	2,802	621	107	40,120	8,784	21.9
Queensland ..	54,271	17,118	10,517	1,792	539	119	65,327	19,029	29.1
S.A. (b) ..	4,197	2,766	7,888	1,685	185	43	12,270	4,494	36.6
T.A. ..	18,747	6,396	6,930	1,114	260	57	25,937	7,567	29.2
Tasmania ..	544	136	2,922	440	73	18	3,539	594	16.8
TOTAL:	119,168	38,680	68,110	10,627	2,236	470	189,514	49,777	26.3

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

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COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN